

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY  
SEPTEMBER 4, 2018**

**ITEM 5**

**SUBJECT**

INFORMATIONAL ITEM ON THE STATUS OF ONCE-THROUGH COOLING INTERIM MITIGATION AND THE USE OF INTERIM MITIGATION FUNDS

**DISCUSSION**

The statewide Water Quality Control Policy on the Use of Coastal and Estuarine Waters for Power Plant Cooling (Once-Through Cooling Policy or OTC Policy) requires owners and operators of existing power plants to implement measures to mitigate interim impingement and entrainment impacts resulting from their cooling water intake structures. The interim mitigation period commenced on October 1, 2015 and continues up until owners and operators achieve final compliance with the OTC Policy. Section 2.C(3) of the OTC Policy provides three options for demonstrating compliance with the interim mitigation requirements. Most power plant owners and operators elected to comply by providing funding to the California State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) and the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) to fund appropriate mitigation projects.

Per the Memorandum of Understanding between the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), OPC, and the SCC regarding acceptance and use of interim mitigation funds, \$5.4 million per annual interim mitigation period are provided to the OPC for mitigation of impacts in State Marine Protected Areas, and remaining funds are provided to the SCC for wetland restoration.

The item presentation will include a summary of current and planned future use of interim mitigation funds. State Water Board staff will provide background on the interim mitigation requirements and determination process with an update on the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 interim mitigation cycles. The OPC will present projects that have received funding from the 2015-2016 interim mitigation period, the results of the scientific advisory committee which helped to develop the grant guidelines for competitive project solicitation, and the types of projects that may receive funding in the future. The SCC presentation will provide information on the restoration planning for Ormond Beach and the Southern California Wetland Recovery Project work plan.

**POLICY ISSUE**

NOT APPLICABLE

**FISCAL IMPACT**

NOT APPLICABLE

**REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT**

NOT APPLICABLE

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

NOT APPLICABLE

State Water Board action on this item will assist the Water Boards in reaching Goal 6 of the Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012 to enhance consistency. In particular, approval of this item will assist in fulfilling Objective 6.1 to target consistency improvements in process and policy for Water Board enforcement activities to promote compliance.